

A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

# THE BUSY QUILL

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## HORROR WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR

Literary genres, for me, are like the flavors used in crafting a fine meal or dessert. Too much of any one taste leaves you feeling a bit overwhelmed, like the meal was one-note and not very complex. The very best of them (meals and stories) combine sweet, savory, salty, sour, and umami to create a balanced masterpiece.

When carrying this analogy over to literature, that need for balance still applies. Horror is glorious, but so much better when tempered with a little romance to raise the stakes, a little self-discovery to make characters relatable, and a little humor to cleanse the mental palate from time to time.

My very favorite horror movies and shows introduce elements of humor which humanize the characters and take the edge off between emotional trauma, physical

danger, and spirals of fear. I mean, what would *THE LOST BOYS* be without, "Death by stereo!"

This is rarer in books, though you'll get an amusing side character in a Stephen King novel. Some entire series, though, like the *GOOSEBUMPS* books, sprinkle humor in like a fine spice that's ultimately inseparable from the dish as a whole.

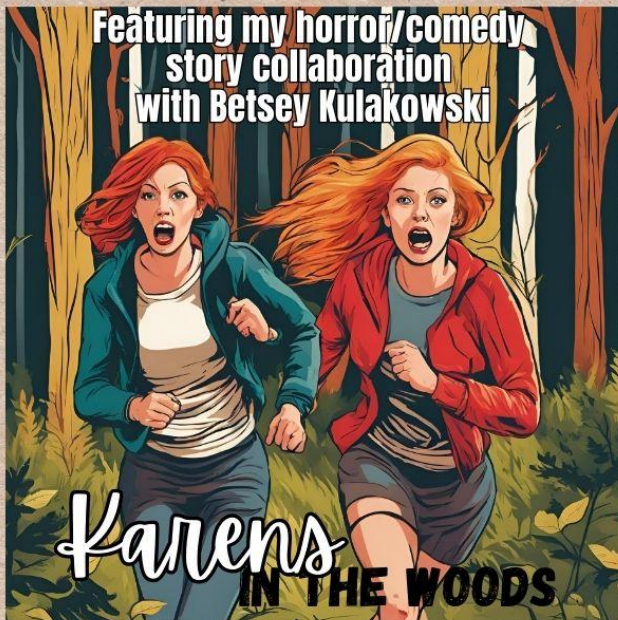
## MY FIVE

### THIS MONTH: HORROR COMEDIES (FILM/TV)

1. WARM BODIES
2. WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS
3. SHAUN OF THE DEAD
4. ARMY OF DARKNESS
5. TUCKER AND DALE VS. EVIL

# WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

COMING SOON: AUTUMN TALES 3!



COME SEE ME AT TAMPA NECRONOMICON!



I'll be here  
Sept 27-29! ↗

FEATURED AUTHOR: ADAM CAGLEY

JBC: DRAW US IN! GIVE US A LOGLINE FOR CYRUS STONE: HUNTER OF EVIL!  
AC: A childish but fearsome monster hunter faces off against a doomsday preacher as mysterious as he is questionable in a battle for the soul of a town that time forgot.

JBC: YOUR NOVEL COMPLETELY INTERTWINES HORROR AND COMEDY. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS PAIRING THAT SPEAKS TO PEOPLE?

AC: They're two sides of the same coin, right? Jordan Peele said that the only difference between horror and comedy is the music. I've always felt that blending them just makes horror more accessible. The laughs take the edge off for people who aren't typically fans of the scares, but they also play with areas of the genre that fans find goofy or silly. Hardcore fans get something fun and those dipping a toe get something a little more digestible than a full speed nerve shredder. Finding the balance between those two is the tricky part!

JBC: WILL WE BE HEARING MORE FROM CYRUS STONE?

AC: You will absolutely be hearing more from Cyrus! It's impossible to shut him up sometimes. Plus, what's a good horror franchise without a ton of sequels?

